GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3147
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2016
Influx of Chinese Firecrackers
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the influx of Chinese firecrackers in the Indian markets in large amounts and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
(b) whether any permission or trade agreements have been entered into with regard to Chinese firecrackers and if so, the details thereof and if not, how these firecrackers are entering into the Indian markets;
(c) whether these Chinese firecrackers are causing harm to the Indian trading community and the country and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether any study has been conducted to check the illegal transportation of these harmful Chinese firecrackers and if so, the details thereof;
(e) the steps being taken by the Government to stop the illegal dumping of these life-threatening firecrackers by China; and
(f) the details of licensing procedure in respect of trade of firecrackers along with the steps proposed to be taken to tighten the said procedure in the wake of growing explodes?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (f) : Import of "Fireworks" covered under Indian Trade (Harmonized System) classification [ITC(HS)] code 36041000 is 'restricted' and no one can import fireworks without a license/authorization from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). For last three years no license /authorization have been issued by DGFT. India has no trading agreements for import of firecrackers from China. Further, as per available data, no import of "fireworks" has taken place from China or any other country during the last three years and the current year (up to September 2016). However there have been cases of illegal imports of fireworks.

The Customs Authorities and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have made several seizures of illegally imported foreign origin firecrackers based on specific intelligence in places like Mundra; ICD, Dadri; Nhava Sheva; ICD, Loni; ICD, Tughlakabad; Raigad and Sangrur. Further, to curb the menace of illegal import and smuggling of these foreign made firecrackers, DRI has issued alert/ modus operandi circulars to sensitize the Customs field formations and also the Chief Secretaries and the Director Generals of Police of various State Governments on the issue.

Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization (PESO), under the Explosives Rules, through its field offices, has been taking action on seized fireworks including destroying them. Special drive is also undertaken by PESO during festival periods to ensure no foreign origin fireworks are stored or sold.

Government has also been issuing press notices in English, Hindi and vernacular languages in National and Regional papers on a regular basis during the festive season, for the past few years, informing the public that possession and sale of fireworks of foreign origin in India is illegal and punishable under the law and that information about possession and/ or sale of such fireworks may be reported to the nearest police station for suitable action.

The sale of fireworks is regulated by the Explosives Rules, 2008 framed under the Explosives Act, 1884 and a license is required for possession and sale of fireworks.
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